

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 11, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 854

Introduced by Senator Ridley-Thomas

February 23, 2007

An act to amend Section 2146 of, *and to add Section 2148 to*, the Elections Code, relating to voter registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 854, as amended, Ridley-Thomas. Voter registration: students.

~~Existing~~

(1) *Existing* law requires the Secretary of State to annually provide secondary education and specified post-secondary education campuses with a number of voter registration forms that is consistent with the number of students enrolled at each school. The Secretary of State is required to provide written notice with each form, instructing students regarding voter eligibility and where to file the completed forms.

This bill would allow students to submit completed voter registration forms to the Secretary of State in addition to returning the forms in person or by mail to the elections official of the county in which the student resides. *This bill would require, by January 1, 2010, every community college and California State University campus to make the voter registration process available through an automated program that permits students, during the class registration process, to elect to receive a voter registration form that is preprinted with personal information relevant to voter registration. This bill would state that the University of California is encouraged to comply with this requirement.* The bill also would require the Secretary of State to annually submit to the Legislature, on or before January 1 of each year, a report on its student voter registration efforts, as specified.

This bill would require every high school, community college, and California State University campus to designate a contact person, as specified, for the Secretary of State to contact in order to facilitate the distribution of voter registration cards. This bill would state that the University of California is encouraged to comply with this requirement.

By imposing new duties on public schools and the community colleges, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: ~~no~~-yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2146 of the Elections Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 2146. (a) The Secretary of State shall annually provide every
- 4 high school, community college, and California State University
- 5 and University of California campus with voter registration forms.
- 6 The number of forms shall be consistent with the number of
- 7 students enrolled at each school who are of voting age or will be
- 8 of voting age by the end of the year. The Secretary of State shall
- 9 provide additional forms to any school, free of charge, if so
- 10 requested by a school.
- 11 (b) The Secretary of State shall provide a written notice with
- 12 each registration form describing eligibility requirements and
- 13 informing each student that he or she may return the completed
- 14 form in person or by mail to the elections official of the county in
- 15 which the student resides or to the Secretary of State.
- 16 (c) (1) *On or before January 1, 2010, every community college*
- 17 *and California State University campus shall make the voter*
- 18 *registration process available through an automated program,*
- 19 *operated in coordination with the Secretary of State, that permits*
- 20 *students, during the class registration process, to elect to receive*

1 *a voter registration form that is preprinted with personal*
2 *information relevant to voter registration.*

3 *(2) As soon as a community college or California State*
4 *University or University of California campus complies with*
5 *paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may continue, at his or her*
6 *discretion, to provide the campus with voter registration forms*
7 *unless the campus requests not to receive the voter registration*
8 *forms.*

9 *(3) The University of California is encouraged to comply with*
10 *this subdivision.*

11 ~~(e)~~

12 *(d) The Secretary of State shall submit to the Legislature, on or*
13 *before January 1 of each year, a report on its student voter*
14 *registration efforts pursuant to this article. This report shall include*
15 *estimates as to how many voter registration forms were sent to*
16 *high schools, community colleges, and California State University*
17 *and University of California campuses, and how many voter*
18 *registration forms were returned, and how many voter registration*
19 *forms were sent out to community colleges and California State*
20 *University and University of California campuses through the*
21 *automated program described in subdivision (c).*

22 ~~(d)~~

23 *(e) It is the intent of the Legislature that every high school and*
24 *college student receive a voter registration card with his or her*
25 *diploma. It is also the intent of the Legislature that every school*
26 *do all in its power to ensure that students are provided the*
27 *opportunity and means to register to vote. This may include*
28 *providing voter registration forms at the start of the school year,*
29 *including voter registration forms with orientation materials,*
30 *placing voter registration forms at central locations, and including*
31 *voter registration forms with graduation materials.*

32 *SEC. 2. Section 2148 is added to the Elections Code, to read:*
33 *2148. (a) Every high school, community college, and*
34 *California State University campus shall designate a contact*
35 *person and provide his or her address, telephone number, and*
36 *e-mail address, when possible, to the Secretary of State for the*
37 *Secretary of State to contact in order to facilitate the distribution*
38 *of voter registration cards, as provided for under this article.*

39 *(b) The University of California is encouraged to comply with*
40 *this subdivision.*

1 *SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
2 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
3 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
4 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
5 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

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